

Seth, Prof. James

[University of Edinburgh]

Dec 1914 - July 1915
(a7).

See also correspondence with

Prof. James Seth in

"Political Economy" file, 1914-15

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December 14th, 1914

My dear Seth:

We have had a great deal of trouble about our German professors. Popular clamour has demanded their dismissal. This I have resisted, and I hope we are out of the woods, but one argument of those who urged their dismissal was drawn from the British Universities, and in particular Edinburgh. Can you let me know precisely what happened in Edinburgh, and whether there was any difference of opinion as to what was done?

I have been told that Eggling's resignation was accepted; that Professor Schlapp was reinstated when he became a British subject, and that a third man was a reservist and was interned. Also, that the whole affair arose through fear of the students making some counter demonstration, and that the request of the Court for the resignation of the Germans elicited a great variety of feeling in Edinburgh over the matter.

I am sorry you did not come out last autumn, but I hope we may have a visit some time again. We have this year quite a large attendance, about the same as usual, with over 1800 drilling in the Officers' Training Corps. Quite a number of our people are at the front.

With the season's greetings, and with my kind regards to your brother, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Professor James Seth,

University of Edinburgh.

President.

March 17th, 1915

Professor James Seth,
Edinburgh University,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Seth:

We have just had two splendid addresses from Dr. Sarolea. He is to return in a few weeks with the object, I believe, of securing support for the proposed Anglo-American University in Brussels. He has made a very good impression here. I have, however, been told by some people that he goes his own way, and has fallen out with some of those in authority. Can you give me any information which will be for my private use that would enable me to judge as to what co-operation it would be advisable to give to Dr. Sarolea in any of his projects.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 22nd, 1915

Professor Seth,

13 Corrennie Gardens, Edinburgh.

My dear Seth:

Many thanks for your letter with regard to Sarolea. It is very satisfactory. Please say nothing about the incident, as I believe there was nothing in it. He has been here since and addressed a large gathering. I have seen something of him, and he seems to me to be a very brilliant man, but I can quite imagine that what you mention might happen.

I am also very glad to have the name of MacIver. It so happens that we have a vacancy in Political Economy, and possibly MacIver would just suit us. I wonder whether you could get me any information as to his quality as a teacher, and as a force among his colleagues? Apparently his scholarship is all right.

We are beginning now to get our share of casualties. Two ^{sons of} officers, friends of ours, have died this week, one from wounds and the other in action. It is a terrible toll that we are paying. We are closing three weeks earlier in order to allow men to enlist if the call comes to them. It has been a sad winter throughout. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

May 12th, 1915.

Professor James Seth,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Seth:

We are now looking for a man or men to fill two places in Economics. One will be a good place, an Associate Professor's position with a salary running about \$2500 or upwards, and if the man were to turn out to be a really good man he would before long get the headship. We are not ready to offer the position to any man because we want to get one who has promise for the future in him. As far as I can judge MacIver seems to be as promising a man as we have in sight. Would you sound him as to whether he would think of the position? My own opinion is that it is a splendid opening. As I said, however, I do not wish to make him yet a final offer.

What a terrible affair the sinking of the "Lusitania" has been! Toronto has been heavily stricken. The wife of one of our professors has been lost, her daughter escaping because she was a good swimmer. They were both on their way across to London to see a surviving brother, who was wounded, the other having been killed in the battle of Langemarck. The inhumanity of the deed was only equalled by its stupidity, because it will only accuse everybody, including the neutral nations, I believe.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 14th, 1915

Professor James Seth,
University of Edinburgh.

My dear Seth:

I hope that you got my cable and that MacIver has acted upon it and is not pressing his application for Cardiff. As far as I can judge we shall be extremely fortunate to get him. Lloyd, who has held the chair till now, sails from New York this week, and when he arrives in Liverpool he will telegraph to MacIver asking him to meet him. Lloyd can give MacIver full information about the chair and its prospects, and if after his conversation he thinks that MacIver would like to come, Lloyd will cable to me and we can get the final appointment made. Lloyd is an excellent fellow, and MacIver will be able to rely thoroughly on everything that he tells him.

I am greatly indebted to you for the trouble that you have taken in the matter and I hope that as a result of it we shall get a man who will do much for us in Canada.

Yesterday I had at dinner with me one of your brother's former assistants, Professor J. M. Shaw of Halifax. He was I think two years assistant in the Metaphysical classes. He seems to have an acute mind and along with it is a delightful man. His wife is an Edinburgh lady. It was refreshing to have a whiff from Edinburgh again. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

July 7th, 1915

Professor James Seth,

10 Braid Avenue, Edinburgh.

My dear Seth:

Just a line to say that yesterday to my great satisfaction MacIver was appointed Associate Professor in Political Economy. I believe we are fortunate in getting him. I think also that he is coming to a good place. We are greatly indebted to you for all your trouble in the matter. I hope sometime I may be able to repay you.

I am sending you a little book that I have just published. It may interest you perhaps.

I am just off now for my holiday. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.